May 11, 1999

RE: Docket #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food."

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 Rockville, Md 20825

Dear Food and Drug Person:

The following are reasons to continue the labeling of irradiated foods:

Nothing will stop the consumer from finding out what is being done to their food. It is in the best interest of food manufacturers to put a label on irradiated foods. The consumer will find out which foods are irradiated and which are not. The difference is the consumer will not trust the food industry when they find out their food has been irradiated.

By being honest and labeling the food, the food manufacturers will gain credibility with their customers. Most of the meat industries have felt the consumer back lash from the irradiation issue. I and my family became mostly vegetarian based since the irradiation issue surfaced many years ago. And we use almost spices.

We already know the deceptive terms such as "electronic pasteurization or cold pasteurization." Why can't the consumer be told the truth about what is being done to their food? Why is labeling food as "Irradiated" so much for the consumer to ask?

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